



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: MS115

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Nomination #5– Statewide, across all 82 counties of Mississippi
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position: 240 Wise Center Drive, Mississippi State, MS
on the Mississippi State University Campus in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice
Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef Cattle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dairy Cattle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poultry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Ruminant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef Cattle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dairy Cattle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poultry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Ruminant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other : _____

☒ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)
Employer: Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU-CVM) Position Title: Clinical Instructor in Rural Veterinary Practice
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Food Safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Epidemiology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: <u>Mentoring Food Animal Medicine Students</u>

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This Clinical Instructor in Food Animal and Rural Veterinary Practice will be housed in the MSU CVM Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine. The primary objective is to provide an educational resource and mentorship to students interested in rural veterinary practice. They will participate and support delivery of food animal medicine, population medicine (epidemiology), and rural public health education to veterinary students, veterinary technology students, and undergraduate students. The MSU CVM has a unique program whereby a student can obtain a DVM and MS in 5 years, with an applied focus on food animal medicine. With increased interest in this program and a greater number of DVM students with interest in food animal and rural practice, it has become increasingly difficult to provide adequate faculty mentorship to sustain student interest. This position will provide such mentorship.

Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, directly or indirectly employing 30% of the workforce. Being in a rural location, a veterinarian specializing in rural veterinary practice will be an asset to the state's agriculture industry and economy.

(173 words)

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This position will provide veterinary expertise in areas of food animal medicine and outreach and maintain a strong focus on mentoring students interested in food animal medicine. Mentoring activities include participating in clinical rounds, leading student club activities, and conducting applied animal health workshops/labs for undergraduates and DVM students. They will assist students to find or will providing opportunities for externships and summer experiences in food animal practice. They will also be available to mentor and recruit students into veterinary rural practice, including college and high school students. Additionally, this position will seek to engage students in outreach activity in population medicine, public health, and rural community leadership. The CVM is playing an increasing role in the response to disaster planning and management, and this veterinarian would also participate in those activities.

(132 words)

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Food animal and public health experts have been brought to MSU CVM to teach veterinary students and provide continuing education. Prior efforts to hire a food animal production medicine specialist were unsuccessful, and present economic realities do not allow filling this position. Interns and residents have been hired to provide additional instruction in food animal veterinary medicine, however, time to address population medicine and rural public health is not available given the clinical duties. There have been few incentives for such public practice positions, and graduates have often had to take positions in other areas due to financial obligations.

(99 words)

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Poultry and eggs lead the state in total agricultural sales, with cattle and calves being the 4th leading commodity. The catfish industry, the largest aquaculture industry in the nation, ranks 5th. All areas of the state are experiencing growth in small ruminants. There are approximately 1.2 mil food animals (cattle/calves, swine, sheep/lambs) in the state, with only 100 large animal veterinarians to service them (NASS, AVMA Food Supply Veterinary Medicine estimates). Twenty-eight of 82 counties have no practicing food animal veterinarians.

The risks of a veterinarian not being secured within the state are many, including the inability to adequately prepare students for a career in rural veterinary practice, reduced retention of students interested in food animal or rural veterinary medicine, reduced experiences in food animal veterinary medicine, and reduced public practice services to the local and state communities.

The shortage of food animal veterinarians nationwide will put animal and human health in jeopardy. Specifically, this can result in increased livestock morbidity and mortality, improper animal treatments, improper handling, and increased threats to animal welfare. Food safety concerns may also arise when drugs or other chemicals are used improperly or when improper drug withdrawals are followed. The failure to recognize emerging and foreign animal diseases, some of which may be zoonotic, may also threaten the entire US economy. Knowledge of food production and agrosecurity is necessary to protect the nation's food supply. Lack of preparedness for natural or intentional disasters, as experienced in recent worldwide events, can devastate the economy.

(250 words)

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

NIFA is not requesting information in support of this type of agreement at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: James A. Watson, D.V.M.

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Mississippi Board of Animal Health

Email: jimw@mdac.state.ms.us

Telephone Number: 601-359-1170
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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